

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 T-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 CAB-09 COME-00 EB-11 FAA-00 DOTE-00 RSR-01

/117 W

----- 040697

R 121417 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8706

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 2028

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, NI

SUBJECT: KANO AIR ACCIDENT INQUIRY

1. INTENSIVE STAGE OF BOARD OF INQUIRY'S HEARINGS REGARDING KANO AIR CRASH OPENED YESTERDAY IN KANO WITH DEPOSIT OF BASIC BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING AIR JORDAN'S RECORDS SUCH AS FLIGHT MANIFEST, CERTIFICATE OF AIRWORTHINESS AND MAINTENANCE RECORDS. LAGOS NEWSPAPERS HEADLINED QUESTIONING OF TRANSPORT PERMSEC LONGE REGARDING ASSOCIATION OF AIR CONTROLLER'S PETITION OF OCTOBER 24 (COPY POUCHED AF/ NI IN JANUARY) ALLEGING DANGEROUS CONDITIONS AT KANO AIRPORT. CONTROLLERS CITED INTER ALIA CRUMBLING RUNWAY SURFACE, INDADEQUATE CONTROL OF PEOPLE AND ANIMALS IN AIRPORT VICINITY AND POOR AIR- TO- GROUND AND GROUND- TO- AIR COMMUNICATIONS. PETITION ALLEGED THAT DETERIORATION SO ADVANCED AS TO CONSTITUTE DANGER TO USE OF FIELD BY HEAVY AIRCRAFT.

2. NTSB REPRESENTATIVE HOLSTINE CARRIED FLIGHT RECORDER AND VOICE RECORDER DATA TO KANO YESTERDAY, AND IT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPECTED THAT THIS INFORMATION WILL BE PLACED BEFORE
INQUIRY LATER THIS WEEK.

3. COMMENT: FMG HAS LONG RECOGNIZED NEED FOR REPAIRS
AT KANO, INCLUDING RESURFACING OF RUNWAY. IN LATE
DECEMBER DEPUTY PERMSEC OBI TOLD PRESS THAT RESURFACING
WOULD COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY AFTER COMPLETION OF HEJJ FLIGHTS.
QUESTION INQUIRY WILL FOCUS ON IS NOT WHETHER POOR CON-
DITIONS EXISTED AT KANO AIRPORT BUT WHETHER THESE DE-
FACTS CONTRIBUTED IN ANY WAY TO ACCIDENT.

3. JUDGE BELLO' S PROMPT PLACING OF AIR CONTROLLERS'
PETITION IN EVIDENCE SEEMS TO CONFIRM REPORTS THAT
HE INTENDS TO CONDUCT A VERY THOROUGH INVESTIGATION,
BRINGING OUT ALL FACTORS BEARING ON ACCIDENT. HOWEVER,
KNOWLEDGABLE AVIATION CIRCLES HERE REMAIN CONVINCED
THAT, ALTHOUGH CONDITION AT KANO AIRPORT ARE BAN AND
NEED URGENT IMPROVEMENT, THEY WERE NOT A PRIMARY OR
SUBSTANTIALLY CONTRIBUTING CAUSE OF ACCIDENT. THEY
POINT OUT THAT MAJOR AIRLINES WITH HEAVY AIRCRAFT ARE
AGAIN USING KANO SUCCESSFULLY, EVEN THOUGH NO SUBSTAN-
TIAL IMPROVEMENTS HAVE YET BEEN MADE IN RUNWAY OR AIR-
WAY SYSTEM CONTROLS HERE.
REINHARDT

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LAGOS02028
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730324/aaaahlaf.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971118
Subject: KANO AIR ACCIDENT INQUIRY
TAGS: ETRN, NI
To: AF
AMMAN
KADUNA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005